

AUG 22 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-6 are withdrawn, Claims 7 and 10 have been amended, leaving Claims 7-16 for consideration upon entry of the present amendment.

Support for the amendment to Claims 7 and 10 can at least be found in Figures 1, 2A, 2B, and 3, as well as in the specification. For example, support can be found at least at page 18, lines 3-8 of the specification.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 7, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Urabe et al. (U.S. Patent 6,614,174; hereinafter "Urabe"), and further in view of Yamada (U.S. Patent 6,246,179).

Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Urabe, Yamada and further in view of Duineveld et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,891,327; hereinafter "Duineveld").

Claims 10, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Urabe, Yamada, and further in view of Tang (U.S. Patent 5,935,272).

Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Urabe, Yamada, Tang, and further in view of Duineveld.

These rejections are moot in light of Applicants' clarifying amendments. More particularly, the primary reference, Urabe, either alone or in combination with any of the secondary references fail to teach or suggest a method comprising, among other things, forming a groove between each insulating film and the protrusions. Since the combined references would fail to teach at least one claimed element, independent Claims 7 and 10 are not obvious and are therefore allowable. Moreover, as dependent claims from an allowable independent claim, Claims 8-9 and 11-16 are, by definition, also allowable.

10/627,118
YKI-0133

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicants' attorney hereby authorizes that such fee(s) be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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10/627,118

YKI-0133